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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

18th Apr.—The Royal Air Force made the heaviest raid yet on the German capital with the latest types of bombers and bombs. They also raided Cherbourg, Rotterdam and Cologne.

The German Air Force attacked Portsmouth.

19th Apr.—The Royal Air Force successfully attacked enemy shipping off Heligoland and Norway.

20th Apr.—The German Air Force made a heavy attack on London while British bombers sank more enemy ships in the North Sea.

21st Apr.—Britain was practically free of raiders and a British mine-sweeper destroyed two German aircraft.

The Royal Air Force raided Cologne, Dusseldorf, Aachen, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, Ostend and Brest. Several enemy ships were hit and left sinking.

22nd Apr.—While the German air force attacked Plymouth, the Royal Air Force raided the docks at Le Havre and aerodromes in Northern France.

23rd Apr.—While the German Air Force made a heavy attack on Plymouth, the Royal Air Force raided the naval base at Brest.

24th Apr.—German airmen raided Plymouth for the third night in succession. The Royal Air Force attacked industrial and military targets in Germany and occupied countries.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

18th Apr.—British and Imperial Air Forces harassed the enemy in Cyrenaica. British patrols, which were very active near Tobruk and Sollum, captured many German prisoners.

A statement issued from No. 10, Downing Street, said that if either Athens or Cairo were bombed by the enemy, His Majesty's Government would authorize the systematic bombing of Rome though the greatest care would be taken not to bomb Vatican City.

19th Apr.—British troops harassed the enemy near Tobruk and destroyed a number of vehicles in an enemy convoy near Sollum. Empire air forces destroyed German transport in Cyrenaica and Italian planes in aerodromes in Abyssinia.

Enemy aircraft attacked Malta but caused no great damage to Government property.

20th Apr.—Tobruk beat off a German mechanized assault, Indian mechanized troops taking part in the defence. Benghazi, Tripoli, Derna and Bardia were heavily raided by the Royal Air Force. The Imperial troops reached the outskirts of Dessie in Abyssinia where plans were being made for the return of Emperor Haile Selassie to Addis Ababa.

21st Apr.—The Italian Viceroy of Abyssinia was reported to have assured Mussolini that he would fight to the last and to have rejected the British offer of safe conduct for civilians if he and his troops surrendered. The Royal Air Force bombed Derna, Benghazi and Gazala. A heavily laden enemy tanker was sunk on its way to Tripoli by the British submarine *Tetrarch*.

Malta was twice raided by enemy airmen but without damage or casualties.

22nd Apr.—British forces began their assault on Dessie; patrols were active in Libya and the Royal Air Force bombed enemy bases.

A heavy bombardment of the port of Tripoli was carried out by the British Navy; and six transport or supply ships, one destroyer, a naval headquarters power-station and military stores were hit. Four German troop-carrying planes were shot down in flames.

A tanker (8,000 tons), a supply ship (6,000 tons) and an ammunition ship (7,000 tons),

all carrying supplies for the enemy in the Balkans, were torpedoed by British naval aircraft.

23rd Apr.—The battle for Dessie was in progress. Elsewhere the British Imperial forces continued their addvance in Abyssinia.

Military headquarters in London confirmed to-day that a British force was landed in Bardia to demolish enemy positions.

During raids from Tobruk, Imperial forces captured 17 Italian officers and 430 other ranks. Royal Air Force fighters brought down four enemy aircraft at Tobruk and also attacked shipping in Benghazi harbour.

24th Apr.—The Imperial Forces forced the Italians' forward defences at Dessie.

Eight enemy planes were shot down in an air battlle over Tobruk.

The Royal Air Force carried out systematic raids on Libyan towns and on the Dodecanese Islands.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC.

18th Apr.—United States troops left for Bermuda to form part of the new garrison there.

19th Apr.—Lord Halifax had a conversation with the United States Secretary of State and said afterwards that the Atlantic Ocean remained the decisive theatre of war.

20th Apr.—President Roosevelt had a long conference at New York with Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Premier.

Mr. Roosevelt urged American doctors to volunteer for service in the military and civilian hospitals of "Our British friends."

21st Apr.—A joint statement issued in America after the King-Roosevelt talks revealed that agreement was reached on the principle of joint mobilization of the resources of Canada and United States in aid of Britain and in the defence of the Western Hemisphere.

22nd Apr.—Mr. Mackenzie King announced that President Roosevelt would visit Canada in May.

23rd Apr.—Col. Knox, U. S. Secretary of the Navy, revealed that about 20 fast torpedo boats were ready for delivery to Britain.

Lord Beaverbrook stated that nearly 1,000 assembled American and Canadian aircraft had already been delivered to the Royal Air Force and that only one aircraft was lost on the ferry service between America and Britain.

24th Apr.—The British submarine *Urge* torpedoed and sank a heavily laden enemy oil tanker of over 10,000 tons which was endeavouring to run the blockade.

GREECE AND ITALY.

18th Apr.—The Greek and British Imperial troops began a gradual withdrawal to a shorter line of defence in the face of increasing and reckless pressure by the German forces. According to American reports, German losses in Greece so far included 60,000 dead.

The Greek Prime Minister, M. Korizis, took his own life, unable to bear the strain of his immense responsibility.

19th Apr.—All German attacks were repulsed and the Anglo-Greek front remained unbroken.

20th Apr.—The Allies evacuated Mount Olympus as part of a plan of retirement to a shorter line. Their rearguards inflicted terrible casualties on the advancing Germans. The Royal Air Force played havoc with troop concentrations.

It was announced that King George of Greece had formed a new Cabinet under his direction.

The Vatican Radio made a sharp attack on the Nazi regime for its treatment of Catholics in Germany.

21st Apr.—The Imperial forces evacuated Larissa and Trikkla in the course of their systematic withdrawal but the Germans failed to break through the Allied line at any point. The British withdrawal was in conformity with the movement of the Greek army on the left. The Royal Air Force shot down no fewer than 16 German planes in air battles over Greece. German airmen raided the island and town of Corfu, Piraeus, Eleusis and Megra, also Attica, Missolonghi and Thebes. Several German raiders were shot down.

M. Emmanuel Tsouderos was appointed Premier of Greece and took the oath of allegiance. He said "We shall carry on our country's fight to a victorious finish."

22nd Apr.—Empire forces occupied defensive positions south of Lamia, 50 miles south of Larissa. The Germans claimed to have occupied Yanina in the Pindus sector, also the islands of Lemnos and Samothrace off the Turkish coast.

23rd Apr.—The Greek forces in Epirus and Macedonia laid down their arms and surrendered to the enemy. But King George and the Greek Government moved the capital to Crete and announced that the fight would go on and that the surrender in Epirus was unauthorized. The main Greek army stood side by side with their British allies, who were in contact with the enemy at the historic Pass of Thermopylae.

24th Apr.—British troops in Greece were fighting very gallant rearguard actions in Greece, according to Mr. Fadden, the acting Australian Premier.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

18th Apr.—The Germans claimed that the Yugoslav army had capitulated. It was revealed that 12,000 people were killed in the brutal Nazi air-raids on the open town of Belgrade.

19th Apr.—The Yugoslav Premier, General Simovitch, in a statement said that "the fight imposed on us was too unequal." Bulgarian troops entered Yugoslavia "to preserve peace and order among the people" in the "Bulgarian" territory "liberated" by the German army.

It was officially announced that strong British, Indian and other Imperial forces had arrived in Basra to open up lines of communications through Iraq and that the new Iraq administration was affording them full facilities in the spirit of the Anglo-Iraq Treaty. It was hoped in London that more normal relations between the two countries would soon be established.

21st Apr.—King Peter of Yugoslavia and General Simovitch arrived in Jerusalem. A Swiss report stated that their plane was attacked on their way from Athens and that a member of the Yugoslav Cabinet was killed. In a proclamation to his people, King Peter said he would not abandon the struggle against Germany and Italy.

Conversations between the German and Italian Foreign Ministers began at Vienna to chalk out the main lines of a new territorial settlement in the Balkans. King Boris of Bulgaria had already seen Hitler at his field headquarters. Meanwhile the Macedonian Komitadji were reported to be taking heavy toll of German troops in Yugoslavia. An armed band of 8,000 in the Skoplje region was fighting its way south in an endeavour to reach the Greek lines.

The Nazis made more demands of the Rumanian Premier, and threatened to back the Iron Guard against him. General Antonescu, however, held out. Hungaro-Rumanian frontier clashes were reported.

22nd Apr.—It was stated Hitler and Mussolini would discuss the partitioning of Yugoslavia after the preliminary talks going on in Vienna between their Foreign Ministers.

23rd Apr.—Mr. Eden assured the House of Commons that Britain would take firm steps to eradicate all possible German infiltration into Iraq.

24th Apr.—Bulgarian troops occupied almost the whole of Thrace.

Hitler received the Regent of Hungary at his Balkans headquarters. The Hungarian Premier foreshadowed an anti-jewish drive in his country.

SHIPPING SITUATION.

19th Apr.—Yugoslavia announced that approximately 120,000 tons of her shipping, now in American waters, would be made immediately available to Britain for "the common cause."

24th Apr.—The second of Britain's new battleships, "The Prince of Wales" was reported to be in commission.

THE FAR EAST.

18th Apr.—The Soviet gave China an assurance of continued assistance in her struggle with Japan.

19th Apr.—Japanese forces landed at Ningpo and other ports on the Chekiang coast in order to cut off seaborne supplies to China.

The British Ambassador to China left Singapore for Chungking at the conclusion of an important conference with the Governor of the Straits Settlements and the British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East.

The *Pravda* disclosed that the Soviet had refused to join the Three-Power Pact.

20th Apr.—Mr. Matsuoka, on his way back from Moscow, said that the Japan-Soviet Pact had exceeded Japan's fondest expectations and that both countries profitted from it.

21st Apr.—The Australian Foreign Minister contradicted Tokyo reports that a military pact, for the encirclement of Japan, had been signed by Britain, United States, China, Australia, India and the Dutch East Indies.

22nd Apr.—Mr. Matsuoka returned to Tokyo; he maintained that Japan's Pact with the Soviet did not conflict with the Tripartite Pact.

The United States Secretary to the Treasury foreshadowed an early agreement, by which America would advance £12½ million to stabilise Chinese currency.

Japanese forces entered Foochow, capital of the Chinese Province of Fukien and the last of the treaty ports in the possession of the Chungking Government. An air attack was also made on the Burma-China Road.

24th Apr.—Mr. Matsuoka reported on the Soviet-Japan Pact to the Privy Council at Tokyo.

VICHY.

19th Apr.—The Toulouse Radio revealed that many young Frenchmen were going to Portland on their way to join General de Gaulle's Free French Forces.

20th Apr.—Admiral Darlan suspended 22 Town Councils for adopting "a hostile attitude towards the State".

22nd Apr.—Reports that Hitler sent a message to Marshal Petain, offering to conclude a final peace with France if Laval was reinstated, were denied in Berlin.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

21st Apr.—The German authorities threatened severe reprisals against the Belgians as a sequel to the numerous acts of sabotage and "hostility towards the army of occupation" in the Hainaut province of Belgium.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.)

18th Apr.—Eire's Defence Minister stated at a meeting in Boston that Eire would not give up or lease ports to the belligerents. A German bomber crashed in Eire territorial waters off Cork; the crew came ashore and were interned. Penalties for the misuse of the rapidly dwindling stock of wheat flour were announced in Eire.

21st Apr.—The formation of a Basque National Council to continue the work of the Basque Government and to join the Democracies in their war with the dictators was announced by a Basque delegation in London.

24th Apr.—It was reported that Spain's Foreign Minister was supporting Hitler's demand for the right of passage for his troops through Spain to Gibraltar though General Franco was still hesitant.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 15th April 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over enemy coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 9, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* at Brest; rail traffic and a radio station in Denmark; aluminium works at Hoyanger (S. Norway). R.A.F. night bombers raids on Berlin (railway station, goods yards, Government buildings in Wilhelmstrasse); naval base at Emden; other objectives in N. W. Germany. R.A.F. night fighter raids on aerodromes in N. France.	1 day-fighter. 7 night-raiders.	1 day-fighter. 1 night-fighter.
April 10, Thursday.	R.A.F. day bomber raid on air base at Borkum Island (hangars, barracks, troops, naval craft). R.A.F. night bomber raids on factories at Dusseldorf and elsewhere in Ruhr and Rhineland; naval base at Brest (docks, battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*); Focke-Wulffe aerodrome at Merignac.	1 day-bomber. 7 night-bombers.	
April 11, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on patrol and supply ships in N. Sea; fortifications on N. Frisian coast. (Night raids cancelled owing to weather.)	1 day-bomber.	..
April 12, Saturday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on industrial objectives in Ruhr; petrol stores at Flushing; power station at Leyden; shipping off Dutch coast. R.A.F. day fighter attacks on Le Touquet and other aerodromes in N. France. R.A.F. night bombers raids on battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* at Brest; Focke-Wulffe aerodrome at Merignac; U-boat base at L'Orient.	3 night-bombers.	1 day-fighter. 1 night-fighter.
April 13, Sunday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on naval and supply shipping off Dutch and German coasts. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Focke-Wulffe aerodrome at Merignac; invasion base at Bordeaux.	1 day-bomber.	..
April 14, Monday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on convoy off Dutch coast; troops, power station and radio station at Leyden; power station at Haarlem; gun emplacements near Zandfoort. R.A.F. night bomber raid on battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* at Brest.	..	..
April 15, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over channel and N. France. R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off N. W. France; shipping and seaplane base at Borkum Island. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Kiel (naval base, ship-building yards); invasion base at Booulnge.	1 day-fighter. 2 day-bombers. 2 night-bombers.	2 day-fighters. 1 day-bomber.

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The position in the Balkans continues to be serious. The Greek Prime Minister M. Korizis, committed suicide but King George lost no time in setting up a new Government under M. Emmanuel Tsouderos. The King had almost immediately to face another crisis. Greek troops in the Epirus and Macedonian Sectors, cut off from the main Greek army and unable to stand up to the German onrush, have laid down their arms without the consent of the Greek Government. The King and his Ministers have set up the headquarters of the Government at Crete and proclaimed their resolve to continue the fight with all the means in their power. Very severe losses have been inflicted on German troops by the air and land forces of the Allies. But, in spite of heavy punishments, the Germans continue to sacrifice thousands of men.

So far as Yugoslavia is concerned, intensive guerrilla warfare is now going on, there being no unified direction. The King, who is now in Jerusalem, has issued a statement saying that Yugoslavia will never surrender but will fight on.

The position in North Africa appears to have reached stabilization. Repeated attacks on Tobruk have been beaten off, while British heavy and light naval forces, with the assistance of the Royal Air Force, have bombarded the port of Tripoli. This was carried out at dawn on Monday last and continued for 40 minutes, shells of 15 inches and smaller calibres being fired at the harbour and port installations. It is announced that six transport ships, one destroyer, and the naval headquarters power station and military stores were hit and either destroyed or severely damaged. Further, four German troop carrying planes have been shot down. These operations, combined with the severe losses inflicted in the battle of Matapan, have appreciably increased enemy transport difficulties. Apparently, one of the special tasks of the British Navy is to obstruct transport of men and munitions from Sicily to Tripoli.

So far as Abyssinia is concerned, the Duke of Aosta has rejected the offer of the British Commander to lay down arms. Dessie is now being attacked and the British have forced the enemy's outer defences.

Mr. Matsuoka has returned to Tokyo with the Pact with Russia in his hand. He is in an exultant mood and he does not think that this Pact affects the Tripartite Pact which, in his view, remains the immutable basis of Japan's policy. America is of the view that the significance of the agreement could be over-estimated. So far as China is concerned, a more or less definite statement has been made that Soviet help to the Chungking Government will continue to flow.

A rather remarkable revelation is that Russia refused to join the Tripartite Pact in November last.

There have been severe air raids on London in the current week. Plymouth suffered rather badly on three successive nights and there has been good deal of damage, and many people appear to have been killed.

Mr. Churchill made a very brief statement on Tuesday in the House of Commons. He refused to be drawn into discussion of the campaigns that are proceeding because the present was an inopportune moment to do so and it was not fair to the troops that were gallantly engaged in a bitter struggle, to reveal more information.

An agreement between Canada and America has been announced. It will be remembered that there is already a Joint Defence Board set up for ensuring mutual security. The present agreement seeks to mobilize the resources of the two countries for helping Britain and strengthening the defence of the Western Hemisphere, each to provide the other with defence articles which it is best able to produce, that is to say, America will secure nickel and base metals for munitions manufacture, while Canada will be brought under the operation of the Lease and Lend Act for the purpose of securing munitions. It is also stated that Canada will join America in establishing a base at Newfoundland.

WAR IN MIDDLE EAST THEATRE.

The German forces in the Balkans have fully exploited their success in driving a wedge between the Yugoslav and the Greek armies through the Monastir gap and cutting the lines of communication between the two countries. They have also linked up with, and put fresh heart into the Italian forces who were facing utter rout in Albania. It was of course to be expected that the Germans would overrun the plains in Yugoslavia but it was confidently hoped that the Yugoslavs would offer stiff resistance in the mountains in the centre and the south, with their back to the

Adriatic Sea. Characteristically, Hitler sacrificed manpower and material in enormous volume and proved once again that the heroism of even so brave a race as the Serbs was no match for mechanical and aerial supremacy. The German air force, which showed the same callous disregard of humanitarian scruples that it had exhibited in Poland and the Low Countries, was responsible for the death of some 12,000 civilians in the open city of Belgrade. Similar havoc was caused at Serajevo and other towns. Unified resistance is now at an end in Yugoslavia. King Peter, General Simovitch and other members of the Yugoslav Government are now in Jerusalem. In a proclamation, King Peter reaffirms his decision to continue the fight and reports coming in from Yugoslavia speak of harassing guerilla activities and resistance by the Macedonian Komitadji. An army 8,000 strong is stated to be fighting its way from Skoplje to the south in order to join up with the Greeks. True, Yugoslavia is suffering the consequences of the refusal of her past Governments to get into staff conversations with the British. Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Italy, like the vultures they are, are clamouring for a share, but Yugoslavia may yet prove that she is far from being a corpse.

After the fall of Salonika (reported last week), the Greek army stretched in a line from Katerani near Mount Olympus along the hills towards Lake Ochrida and so on to Albania. The Germans, however, by their entry into Albania compelled the Greeks to fall back on the left flank; and on the right, advancing both along the coast and down the valley of the Vistritsa, they cut through the plain of the Thessaly. Larissa, an important town, was practically destroyed by Nazi bombers and powerful German columns pounded at the line held by the British, Australians and New Zealanders along with their Greek comrades. Both the Allied and German air forces played a most active part and the R.A.F. proved itself more than a match for the Luftwaffe. In the face of German superiority in numbers the Allied High Command ordered the withdrawal of their forces so that the front could be shortened and greater resistance offered. The Allies withdrew to Lamia, 50 miles south of Larissa, but their line was nowhere broken. And American estimates place the total German losses in dead at 60,000.

However, as stated above, the Greek troops in the Epirus and Macedonian sectors apparently could not withstand the terrific pressure exerted by the Germans and laid down their arms. This unauthorized defection has in no way affected the resolve of the King and his new Government to carry on the fight. From their new headquarters, both King George and his new Prime Minister have reaffirmed their determination and their faith in ultimate victory. The main body of the Greek troops continue to fight on by the side of the British, Australian and New Zealand forces who have taken up new defensive positions. The British forces are stated to be facing the Germans in the historic Pass of Thermopylae. The general situation is, nevertheless, very serious as can be gathered by the statement made yesterday by Mr. Fadden, Acting Prime Minister of Australia, who said : " We are seeing the last stages of a very gallant rear-guard action." What should be remembered, in discussing the position in Greece is that things might have been very different if Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey had, before the crisis developed, resolved to swim together. But once Greece had decided on fighting the aggressor, alone if need be, it would have been " one of the infamies of history ", as Mr. Menzies of Australia, who is now in London and who has taken full responsibility for sending Australian troops to Greece, said, if the British Empire had, in such circumstances, refrained from rushing to the help of the noble and gallant Greeks.

Meanwhile, in Africa, the German thrust to Libya has been definitely halted near Sollum on the Egyptian border where British patrols have taken increasing toll of the enemy's advance units. The defenders at Tobruk, who now include Indian mechanized troops, have not only resisted all assaults but by brilliant sorties inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. The Royal Air Force has repeatedly raided Bardia, Derna, Benghazi and Tripoli, and the British Navy has proved once again that it is a force to be reckoned with in the Mediterranean by the successful bombardment of the port of Tripoli in Libya and by the lightning landing of a demolition party at Bardia. British naval aircraft also made a highly successful attack on a convoy of enemy ships carrying arms and other supplies to the troops in the Balkans. A tanker of about 8,000 tons, a supply ship also of 8,000 tons, and an ammunition ship of about 7,000 tons were torpedoed. The remnants of the Italian army in East Africa have been forced to give battle at Dessie, their Commander, the Duke of Aosta, having refused the British offer of safe conduct for Italians in Abyssinia in return for their surrender. Plans are ready for the arrival of Emperor Haile Selassi in Addis Ababa. His elder son, the Crown Prince, is at the head of the Patriot forces mopping up the Italians in Abyssinia while his second son, the Duke of Harrar, has been installed as the Governor of that city.

STRATEGY IN THE BATTLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

In the Battle of the Middle East now proceeding with great intensity, the greatest possible care should be taken not to indulge in speculations and over-optimism. It is obvious that Germany did not reckon with the situation brought about by the splendid Greek resistance and the refusal of Yugoslavia to submit to German dictation. Great Britain, in the circumstances, acted in the only way in which she should have done, that is, by deciding to go to their assistance. Such assistance could not be rushed to Yugoslavia in time—a fact which Yugoslavia has acknowledged. It is obvious that Great Britain has run serious risks and they have been taken into account by Wavell, the Wizard. A few facts have to be remembered in this connexion. Great Britain has been able to keep her supply line

across the Mediterranean, especially since the Battle of Matapan; and the conspicuous improvement in her Middle East supply position, the expulsion of the Italians from the Red Sea and the likelihood of American shipments to Red Sea ports enable Great Britain to hold her own in the present struggle.

We should recognize that there is a strategic unity in the battles now proceeding on both sides of the Mediterranean. The forces of the British Commonwealth of Nations are disposed in a great horseshoe, the centre of which is based on Alexandria and the Suez Canal. The left wing extends to Cyrenaica and the right wing, comprising Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece, is linked to the centre by the sea-lane through the Eastern Mediterranean which the Royal Navy commands. In the central sector, the battle is about to close with the completion of the conquest of Italian East Africa, the destruction of the Italian army, 200,000 strong and the Italian Navy, very nearly wrecked. This would necessarily mean that the Allied centre would pour an ever-increasing stream of supply both to the right and left wings. The chief lines of communications to supply bases are from Alexandria, whereto supplies proceed from the Red Sea ports which are linked to Capetown, Great Britain and America. An American commentator, describing the remarkable transformation of American policy in regard to the sending of supplies to Red Sea ports remarks: "When the British were hammering at the Italians on the Plateau of Keren, few people realized that one of the stakes of the battle would be transformation of the major geography of the war. But the day that the Red Sea becomes an open zone for American shipping, the transformation will have begun."

THE ALLIED RESISTANCE.

The failure of the Italian invasion of Greece and the revolt of Yugoslavia provided a great opportunity to the Allies in creating a right wing against Hitler on European soil. He has sent a powerful army to the south, which should necessarliy complicate the problem of supplies to Germany and German-occupied countries. It should be remembered in this connexion that the German war-machine, reinforced by plunder and the industrial resources of the greater part of Europe, is now at its peak. On the other hand, with American help, it will take some time before Great Britain can draw level. It is for this reason that Germany longs to finish the present campaign as quickly as possible and for this purpose is sacrificing thousands of men, irrespective of the consequences. The Greek and the Allied armies are now feeling the full fury of the German onslaught, but they will continue to hang on. Reverses, some of them very severe, are bound to occur.

Monastir Gap, Salonika, Mount Olympus and Larissa have been evacuated by the Allies. Thrace has been occupied by the German troops who have reached the Aegean Sea. All these mean substantial initial successes, but can Germany sustain these successes and extend her operations in extremely difficult mountainous country and against the troops of Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, not to speak of Greece, who know quite well how to make full use of the topographical conditions? These forces in the Balkans must keep up the fight till the other British troops are able to join them. They are greatly outnumbered and there is no disposition anywhere to underestimate the very serious character of the position.

There is one point which must be made clear. General Wavell has been criticized for giving up Benghazi and withdrawing to Tobruk and for evacuating Bardia. These have undoubtedly been unpleasant reverses, but the argument that General Wavell should have continued his original advance over the desert and seized Tripoli is based upon ignorance of geographical conditions in Libya. In the first place, if he had extended his communications by a further 500 miles he would have had to retain considerable forces in Libya and that would have made the conquest of Italian East Africa impossible. For instance, Keren and Massawa could not have fallen into British hands but for the decision to stop with Bengazhi. Again, there was the immient danger of a German advance into Yugoslavia and Greece. When the alternatives of holding on to the deserts of Cyrenaica and assisting Greece are balanced, then it should be obvious to any reasonable mind as to which of the two has greater weight. Alexandria and Suez must be saved and this is being done by subjecting the enemy to losses as Allied troops withdraw until they have acquired a sufficient concentration to hold him. In the meantime, the Royal Air Force and the British Navy are busy sinking enemy transports in the Sicilian channel. The enemy in Cyrenaica is dependent on his long and exposed line of communications over the desert to Tripoli. He cannot escape by sea, while the British forces with shorter lines of communications and sea-power can choose position from which they can threaten these enemy lines of communication. The enemy has lost many planes over Libya and replacement is rather difficult.

INDIAN TROOPS IN IRAQ.

Iraq, which has been much in the picture in the last few days, has Iran and Persia to the east, Arabia to the south and Turkey, Syria and Transjordan in the north and west. Its importance, therefore, to the Allies and Turkey is obvious. The Government of Iraq was recently overthrown by Sayyid Rashid Ali, who stated that his policy would be to uphold the Treaty of 1930 with Great Britain. According to that treaty, in the event of war, Iraq should furnish to the British Commonwealth on Iraq territory assistance in the form of all facilities in their power, including the use of railways, rivers, ports, aerodromes and means of communications. The Iraq people are pro-British. The new Iraq Government was informed by the British Government that British troops would shortly arrive at Basra and assent to this action was readily given. British troops arrived in Basra on April 17 and 18 and these forces were welcomed on behalf

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GREECE

A GREAT AND GLORIOUS COUNTRY.

The Kingdom of Greece comprises an area of 130,000 square miles and has a population of six million and three hundred thousand. It looks small enough on the map but every inch of its soil evokes sacred memories. Six hundred years before the Christian era, the inhabitants of Greece had attained a degree of civilization which fills us even now with wonder and which has left its mark on the world's history. The ancient City States of Greece, led by Athens, were dedicated to the ideals of freedom, beauty, culture and perfection which sway our thoughts even now. And one of them, Sparta, upheld the laws of duty and conduct in many memorable ways.

The Greeks, till they became disunited and weak, were the masters of the Mediterranean seaboard and performed incredibly heroic deeds in defence of national freedom. Every schoolboy thrills to that first lesson in patriotism—the Battle of Thermopylae at which Leonidas and his little band guarded a small pass against a huge army. The Battle of Marathon, the naval battle of Salamis and the rout of the great Persian army at Platae were other notable events in the history of Greece.

And the Greeks produced a succession of great men and women whose works in different fields—literature, philosophy, history—are still read, enjoyed and admired. Who has not heard of the blind poet, Homer, who sang of the heroic ideals of Greece in his epic of the Trojan War? Or of Sappho, the first among women-singers? Then there were Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, who were masters of the drama; Plato and Aristotle, the philosophers; Solon, the wise, Themistocles and Pericles, renowned for their statesmanship; Herodotus, the historian; Demosthenes, the orator; and perhaps the greatest of them all, in fact or in fable, Socrates, who gave his life for his opinions.

GREECE'S PART IN THE GREAT WAR.

The Greeks, with the exception of the Spartans, were freedom-loving and individualistic but always they united against a foreign tyrant as they have now done against the two bullies, Mussolini and Hitler. As they fought the Persians in the old days, they rose against the Turks in the last century and won their freedom, with the support of Great Britain and Russia. Their break-away from the Ottoman Empire gave an impetus to the revival of nationalism in Europe. When revolution broke out in Turkey in 1908, the Balkan States seized the opportunity to form a league but war soon resulted between Greece and Bulgaria. Greece was victorious and gained both prestige and territory; Crete

WAR IN THE AIR—*(Continued from Page 5)*

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 15th April 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy raids (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European Waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
April 9	Nil.	3 day-bombers. 1 night-fighter. 12 night-bombers.
April 10	Nil.	1 day-bomber. 1 day-fighter. 10 night-bombers.
April 11	Nil.	3 day-bombers. 3 night-bombers.
April 12	Nil.	1 day-bomber.
April 13	Nil.	1 day-bomber. 1 night-bomber.
April 14	Nil.	1 day-bomber.
April 15	Nil.	1 day-bomber. 8 night-bombers.

and Salonika became Greek. Venizelos, the outstanding Greek statesman of the first quarter of the present century, led Greece into the Great War on the side of the Allies and sent King Constantine who was pro-German, out into exile. Greece fought loyally by the side of the Allies and at the end of the war got another large accession of territory, enabling her to dominate both sides of the Aegean Sea.

But in 1920, King Alexander died and his father, King Constantine, came back to the throne. Venizelos had meanwhile involved Greece in a fight with Turkey with a view to conquering those parts of Asia Minor which were inhabited by the Greeks. He hoped for a speedy victory but Turkey was now under the magnificent leadership of Mustapha Kemal. The Greeks fought as well as they could but their generals were of poor calibre and Venizelos would not listen to the advice of rising soldiers like Metaxas, who was later to lead his country so nobly and successfully. The Greeks were beaten by the Turks, Constantine abdicated again in 1922 and died a year later. The prestige of the monarchy was shaken and Constantine's son, King George II, was forced to abdicate in 1924. Greece became a republic and years of factional strife (between the Republicans under Venizelos and the Monarchists) followed. Venizelos was defeated in the elections of 1932 and 1933, tried abortive uprisings and was exiled in 1935. The Monarchist leader, General Kondylis, seized power and organized a plebiscite in favour of a restoration; and King George came to the throne (in April 1935). Venizelos died next year in Paris; Kondylis and Tsaldaris, another Royalist leader, died in unhappy succession; but General Metaxas, who was made Premier in 1936, restored order in Greece. He established a dictatorship in August, 1936; Parliament was dissolved and political parties were suppressed. Everyone thought that Metaxas would become the camp-follower of Mussolini and Hitler.

METAXAS REJECTS ITALY'S DEMANDS.

But the belief was mistaken. Metaxas, who had never concealed his admiration for the Spartan ideal of the supremacy of the State, would not barter away his Country's freedom and when Italy presented her three-hour ultimatum at 3 a.m. on October 28 last year, he spurned it aside and resolved to resist the aggression. Italy accused Greece of "tolerating the use of her territorial waters and ports by the British Navy for the prosecution of the war against Italy; permitting the organization of the British Secret Service in the Greek Islands; terrorism against the Albanian population of the Province of Ciamura and persistent attempts to create disorders on the Greco-Albanian frontier." These "provocations", it was said, could no longer be tolerated by Italy, since Greek neutrality had "become more and more a pretence," the responsibility for which "falls upon Great Britain." The Italian Government, therefore, demanded, "as a guarantee of Greek neutrality and Italian security" and "with full respect for Greek sovereignty," that the Greek Government should allow Italian forces to occupy strategic points on Greek territory (Corfu, Crete, Epirus and the Piraeus) for the duration of the conflict with Great Britain. In the event of Greek resistance, it would be suppressed (ran the ultimatum) by force of arms and the responsibility would fall on the Greek Government. General Metaxas summarily rejected the ultimatum, informing the Italian Minister that he regarded it as an Italian declaration of war against Greece. Ordering immediate mobilisation, the General issued a proclamation to his people: "The hour has come to fight for the independence, integrity and honour of Greece." At 5-30 a.m. on that fateful day, half an hour before the ultimatum expired, Italian troops crossed the Greek frontier from Albania.

People may ask why Metaxas, who must have known of the mechanised might of the Italian forces, took the decision to fight the Roman bully. The fact was, Metaxas knew that the valour and patriotism of the Greeks would score heavily against the dispirited and cowardly hordes of Italy. He had long worked out plans for defending the independence of his country among the mountains and valleys where the Italian tanks would be of no avail. He had also entered into a pact of mutual assistance with Turkey, with whom relations had become more and more cordial, and Greece was a member of the Balkan Entente (between Turkey, Greece, Rumania and Yugoslavia). The Entente, it is true, could not withstand the shock of German imperialism in Central and Southern Europe—Rumania had become a client and tool of Hitler but Turkey stood her ground firmly; and later the Yugoslavs, after one week of wobbling, chose to stand side by side with the Greeks in defence of freedom and civilization against Nazi barbarism.

But the chief strength of Greece lies in her traditional friendship with Britain and the guarantee of support against aggression that the British Government gave her in April 1939, soon after Italy had forcibly occupied Albania and thereby threatened Greece. When the war broke out between Britain and Germany in September of that year, Greece remained neutral and Britain, true to her principles, did not exert any pressure on the Greeks to enter the conflict. But the moment Mussolini invaded Greece, the British War Cabinet met and Mr. Churchill, in a ringing message to General Metaxas, declared, "We will give you all the help in our power. We fight a common foe and we will share a united victory."

ITALIANS ROUTED.

It was feared in many quarters that the Italian forces would over-run Greece before assistance could come to her but the Italian campaign appeared to be incredibly ill-planned. The Greeks, spurred on by their patriotism and assisted by the R.A.F., not only threw the invaders out of their country but actually carried the war into Albania. During the first phase of their campaign, the

Italians attempted to advance in three directions: in the Florina sector, they tried to cut across the mountain passes, their objective being Salonika, second in importance among the cities of Greece and commanding the Aegean Sea; the Italians also advanced in the Pindus sector with the intention of capturing the town of Yanina; and in the Epirus sector, they tried to advance along the coastal strip opposite Corfu—which Italy had long coveted and from which she had been ejected by the League of Nations after a flagrantly criminal but fortunately short-lived occupation of that strategic island.

In the Florina sector, the Greeks, occupying the mountain heights above the invaders, held the latter's advance. They threatened Koritza, the Italians' chief supply base in Albania, which was within their shelling-range. Koritza fell to the Greeks in the middle of November after a fierce nine-day battle. The threat to Salonika had been removed. The Italians were at first more fortunate in the coastal region, reaching as far as the Kalamas river; but again the Greeks rallied and the Italians started another retreat back into Albania on November 13. The much boosted Italian navy was conspicuous by its absence, leaving the Italian land forces without any help. In the Pindus sector, the Italians advanced up to Yanina but there they were trapped and completely annihilated. The Greeks went on to capture Moskopolis and Pogradetz in November. Premeti, Santi Quaranta (the southernmost port in Albania) Argyrokastro, Delvino, Porto Palermo and Chimarra fell into their hands in December. Snow and blizzard in the Albanian mountain ranges held up hostilities in January and February this year, but the Greeks managed to secure Klisura, a key-town in the Central sector. Mussolini changed his commanders frequently and finally came over to Albania himself in a desperate effort to whip up courage and enthusiasm in his troops. But his efforts proved utter failures and the numerous counter-attacks that he launched proved costly and disastrous to his men and their morale.

GERMAN INVASION.

The Greeks, who had continued to fight on bravely in spite of the sudden death of their leader, Metaxas, had smashed up Italian plans by the middle of March. They had seen to it that no Italians, except those dead or captive, polluted their sacred soil; they were pressing on in Albania and were well on the way to the chief ports of Valona and Durazzo, which would give them and their British Allies the command of the Adriatic Sea. But a new threat to their independence was now developing fast. Hitler, baffled in his attempts to invade Britain and sorely worried by the series of Italian defeats in Albania and Africa, had now decided to enter the Balkan arena.

Early in March, German troops advanced across Bulgaria to the Greek frontier, hoping to intimidate the Greeks. Failing to do so, Hitler invaded both Yugoslavia and Greece. As was pointed out last week, the initial momentum of his mechanised forces enabled him to take Salonika soon enough, to drive a wedge between the Yugoslavs and the Greeks and to threaten them at various points simultaneously. Yugoslavia, which had previously practised neutrality to the extent of refusing to receive a visit from the British Foreign Secretary and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, could not withstand the terrible German pressure. The Greeks, however, with their British allies, formed fresh lines of defence and checked the German onrush. M. Korizis, who succeeded General Metaxas a few weeks ago as Premier, took his life, unable to bear the weight of his responsibility. That they are as little overawed by the Germans as they were by the Italians is evident in the Order of the Day issued by their Commander-in-Chief, General Papagos, to his troops: "Our watchward is now, as always, Disregard of Death." Their King has formed a strong Government with M. Emmanuel Tsouderos as Premier. The Greek troops, isolated in the Epirus and Macedonia sectors and subjected to the full fury of the German onslaught have been forced to lay down their arms. In the eastern sector, the Greeks, the British and Anzacs are fighting a rearguard action. A very grave crisis faces Greece, but she is, as ever, brave.

TALKING POINTS

(*Continued from Page* 8)

of the Iraq Government. It is also stated that the people of that port welcomed the British and Indian soldiers with whom they had contact during the Great War. German influence in the countries east of Turkey is active and Germany's attempt is to secure the permission of the Iraq and Iran Governments for the free passage of German troops to attack Egypt and the East. There are, of course, rumours about the German Ambassador Von Papen's attempt to bring about a non-agression pact between Germany and Turkey. Turkey, it is expected, would be told that her frontiers would be guaranteed against attack and perhaps a bait in the shape of territorial concessions in Syria might be held out. It is obvious that Turkey will not fall in the net spread for her by Germany because that would lead to her encirclement and domination by Hitler. There is a treaty, called the Saadabad Treaty, between Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan—countries which would be prejudicially affected by a German thrust through Nazi-prepared Iraq and disaffected Syria, to the Suez Canal. There is a report that there will be a conference between these countries to discuss the political situation. The presence of British and Indian troops in Iraq and Turkey's friendship with Great Britain are factors which should be distinctly discouraging to Hitler's plans for a drive to the East.

RUSSIA

Russian reactions to recent events can only be gathered from stray instances, but they are fairly clear. The nearer Germany advances to the Straits, the more definite has become Russia's policy, though it is still very cautious because the U.S.S.R. is afraid of Germany. It may be remembered that, at the time when Rumania was absorbed by Germany, the Soviet contented itself with saying that the occupation was made without her knowledge or consent. Moscow should have known of the developments in Bulgaria, but this time, after Bulgaria had been swallowed, Moscow went a little further and expressed disapproval of that step. As Germany is now within striking distance of the Straits, Russia has gone still further by giving Turkey a formal assurance that if the latter is forced into war for the defence of her territories, she may count upon complete understanding and neutrality on the part of the U.S.S.R. This is a rather negative attitude, but it has come as a considerable relief to Turkey. A few hours before Germany invaded Yugoslavia and Greece, the Moscow Radio announced the signature of a Pact of Friendship and Non-Aggression between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia on lines more or less similar to the pact with Turkey.

Russia has now entered into what is called a neutrality pact with Japan. Numerous and irreconcilable interpretations have been placed upon this pact. China has protested against Russia recognising Japanese annexation of Manchukuo and against Russian annexation of Mongolia. She asked Russia whether the pact would interfere with Soviet help to China and this has resulted in a categorical reply that such help would continue to be given. To the American interpretation that the pact has apparently been the result of apprehensions on the part of Russia that Germany intended to attack her, *Pravda* has replied that it is not against Germany; neither, it is said, has it been instigated by Germany. Russia's policy, it is averred, is completely independent of foreign influence and solely directed by the interests of the Soviet. The newspaper goes on to say that the pact is an instrument of peace. Mr. Matsuoka is evidently satisfied with the pact because it is the only tangible result of his visit. He has stated that the pact went far beyond Japan's expectations and he has vehemently protested against the idea that only Russia has gained by it and that Japan has not got anything in return. The neutrality pact does not provide, as non-aggression pacts ordinarily do, that both sides shall refrain from direct or indirect aid to the enemies of either party. Therefore, if no secret clauses to the pact exist, either of these countries can continue to help the enemy of the other just as Russia has already promised to continue to help China in spite of the pact. There is considerable force in the view that it is Russia that has gained more because, in view of what is happening in South-east Europe and of the long-range plans of Hitler as mentioned in *Mien Kampf*, Russia has the greatest interest in securing her rear, which she has done by this pact with Japan.

Why, it may be asked, should Russia adopt an attitude of bated breath and whispering humbleness? As already stated, she looks with suspicion upon Germany's ventures. In the last few weeks rumours have been spread that an early attack of the U.S.S.R. by Germany may be expected. These stories have no real foundation in the sense that Germany has decided upon such an enterprise, but these accounts appear to emanate from Berlin itself and is part of the war of intimidation upon which Germany is engaged against Russia. It is obvious that Russia's interests in the Straits and the Black Sea are threatened by the German drive in the Balkans. It may be possible that Germany is encouraging Finland to begin the same war of intimidation and Germany's present object is to prevent Russia from seeking to strengthen Turkish, Greek and Yugoslav resistance to the Nazi pressure. It may also be mentioned that Russia has become apprehensive of the extension of German activities and the parallel movement of Germany in regard to Sweden. It may be recollected that a few days ago the Swedish Government issued a statement that the comparative tranquillity which had hitherto existed might not continue and this was followed by the intensification of defensive programmes and the calling up of a number of reservists. What is the reason for this? Swedish authorities were requested to provide a larger number of lorries for the transport of oil and military stores across Sweden to Narvik and when this was refused, a request was made for a special train, probably intended for the same purpose. These demands were made, it may be presumed, because of the alarm created by the British raids on Lofoten Islands but these were refused, Sweden being heartened to do so apparently by the belief that Great Britain is winning; but the threat has a strategic value in that it causes Russia to glance nervously over her shoulder while watching the German approach to the southern gateway. There are indications that German subversive activities in Ukraine and Georgia are organized from Teheran.

Russia is afraid that if she merely does nothing, she may inevitably become subservient to German power throughout the Black Sea area. On the other hand, if she tries conclusions with Germany, the latter may show her fangs. Germany has not been lately delivering according to contract important consignments of machinery and Russia has told Germany that she would hold up the delivery to her of important commodities, eg., oil, if

(*Continued on Page* 16)

A GREEK CALENDAR

THE SMALL NATION THAT DEFIED THE AXIS POWERS

1928 SEP. 23.—Italo-Greek Pact of " Friendship, Conciliation and Judicial Settlement " signed in Rome.

1939 APR. 7.—Italian troops occupy Albania.

1939 APR. 13.—British and French guarantees to Rumania and Greece.

1939 JULY 12.—British trade agreement with Greece signed in London. Greece will make big purchases of British goods with aid of guaranteed credit for £2,040,900. Bonds will be issued by Greek Government bearing 5 per cent interest and repayable after 20 years to cover the amount involved, principal and interest being guaranteed by the Board of Trade.

1939 SEP. 3.—Britain and France declare war on Germany.

1939 SEP. 20.—Official declaration published in Rome :—

" The Italian and Greek Governments, considering it opportune during the present situation in European affairs to review actively relations between the two countries, are glad to note that these relations continue to be sincerely friendly and based on full reciprocal confidence.

" A tangible proof of these sentiments is afforded by the Italian Government's decision to withdraw her military forces from the Greco-Albanian frontier, as well as by the analagous measure which the Greek Government on its part is adopting."

Similar declaration published in Athens by Greek Foreign Ministry.

1940 FEB. 3.—Council of Balkan Entente—MM. Markovitch (Yugoslavia), Gafencu (Rumania), Sarajoglu (Turkey) and Metaxas (Greece)—meets in Belgrade and issues 7-point unanimous agreement *communiqué*.

1940 MAY 16.—Duce reassures Greece and Yugoslavia that Italy has no aggressive aims in the Balkans.

1940 JUNE 11.—Italy declares war on Britain and France.

Says the Duce :—

" I solemnly declare that Italy does not intend to drag other peoples who are her neighbours into this conflict. Let Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Egypt and Greece take note of these words of mine."

1940 AUG. 6.—Greek steamer *Loula* torpedoed by Italian submarine near Crete; 8 lives lost.

1940 AUG. 11.—Italian Stefani News Agency alleges that Albanians in Ciamura—the Albanian province annexed to Greece in 1913—are oppressed and persecuted. Quoting a dispatch from Tirana, the Agency says that Daut Hoggia, an Albanian who had advocated the return of Ciamura to Albania, has been decapitated by the Greeks inside Albanian territory.

1940 AUG. 12.—*Popolo di Roma*, commenting on the Hoggia incident, accuses Greece of violating her neutral status by openly aiding the British to refuel naval aircraft and warships.

Italian charges *re* Daut Hoggia officially denied in Athens, where it is stated that Hoggia—a " notorious brigand, not an Albanian patriot "—was killed by two Albanians, who were arrested about two months ago when they crossed the frontier into Greece after their crime.

1940 AUG. 23.—Reports reaching Athens say Italian mountain troops have occupied strategic passes on Albanian frontier.

1940 AUG. 26.—Greek Government transfers the military Governor of Yanina to Athens, in order that there shall be no possibility of provocation on the frontier. Greek Navy mines Gulf of Arta.

1940, AUG. 28.—Reported in Athens (denied in Rome) that at least 110,000 Italian troops have been concentrated in the " demilitarised " zone of Southern Albania. Greek and Italian detachments have made contact at various points of the border as the Greeks have followed the Italian example and entered the demilitarized zone. The Greek Commander has given strict orders that all precautions are to be taken to avoid incidents.

1940, SEP. 27.—Three Power Axis Pact (for ten years) between Germany, Italy and Japan signed in Berlin.

1940, SEP. 27.—Greek official circles emphatically deny allegations made by the Italian Stefani News Agency that Greek troops have attacked an Albanian frontier post and that " Greek or British agents " are responsible for explosions at Santi Quaranta. The Greek Government, in face of these repeated threats, continues to maintain a non-provocative attitude.

1940, OCT. 28.—At 3 a.m., Signor Grazzi hands to General Metaxas a Three-Hour Ultimatum in which Greece is accused of

(i) " tolerating the use of her territorial waters and ports by the British Navy for the prosecution of the war against Italy ".

(ii) "permitting the organization of the British Secret Service in the Greek islands."

(iii) "terrorism against the Albanian population of the province of Ciamura and persistent attempts to create disorders on the Greco-Albanian frontier."

These "provocations" can no longer be tolerated by Italy, since Greek neutrality has become "more and more a pretence," the responsibility for which "falls upon Great Britain."

The Italian Government therefore demands, "as a guarantee of Greek neutrality and of Italian security" and with "full respect for Greek sovereignty," that the Greek Government shall allow Italian forces to occupy strategic points on Greek territory (Corfu, Crete, Epirus and the Piraeus) for the duration of the conflict with Great Britain.

In the event of Greek resistance, it will be suppressed by force of arms and the responsibility will fall on the Greek Government.

General Metaxas summarily rejects the ultimatum and informs the Italian Minister that he regards it as an Italian declaration of war against Greece.

Immediate mobilization ordered throughout Greece.

Hitler and Mussolini meet at Florence a few hours after the invasion of Greece has begun.

1940 OCT. 30.—British aircraft begin operations from Greek bases.

1940 OCT. 31.—Greek Navy bombards Italian troops advancing along Adriatic coast.

1940 NOV. 1.—Greeks advance three miles into Albania in Florina sector.

1940 NOV. 4.—Landing of British troops in Crete officially announced. Greeks surround Alpini division near Yanina.

1940 NOV. 6.—British Foreign Office announces that £5,000,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the Greek Government as first instalment of financial aid.

1940 NOV. 9.—Reported from Turkish sources that German "tourists" in Athens are acting as Italian intelligence agents and that many "fifth columnists" are being rounded up.

1940 NOV. 11.—Italian Navy crippled by Fleet Air Arm raid on Taranto.

Reported in Athens that the Italian division surrounded a week ago has been practically annihilated—14,000 dead, nearly 5,000 taken prisoner.

General Soddu appointed to command Italian forces following this *débâcle* in the Pindus.

British light naval forces sink three Italian supply ships and damage a fourth in the Straits of Otranto.

1940 NOV. 13.—Italians beginning to retreat from Kalamas river.

1940 NOV. 22.—Koritza falls after nine-day battle.

1940 NOV. 24.—Moskopolis occupied by the Greeks. Italians evacuate Konispolis and fall back towards Delvino and Argyrokastron. Retreating divisions heavily bombed by British and Greek airmen.

1940 NOV. 29.—Progradetz falls to Greeks after seven-day battle in a blizzard.

1940 DEC. 3.—Premeti falls.

1940 DEC. 4.—Santi Quaranta—Albania's southernmost port—now in Greek hands.

1940 DEC. 6.—Marshal Pietro Badoglio, C.-in-C. of Italian armed forces, resigns. General Ugo Cavallero succeeds him.

1940 DEC. 7.—Argyrokastron falls. Delvino occupied by the Greeks.

1940 DEC. 8.—Greek Government publishes White Book proving that Italian aggression against Greece was planned as far back as April, 1939.

1940 DEC. 13.—Porto Palermo captured by the Greeks.

1940 DEC. 22.—Port of Khimarra falls.

1941 JAN. 10.—Kelcyre—key town in the Central sector—captured after month of hard fighting in very bad weather conditions.

1941 JAN. 13.—Rome Radio announces resignation of General Soddu "for reasons of health." Albanian command taken over by General Cavallero.

1941 JAN. 14.—First British Aid to Greece convoy arrives at Greek port.

1941 JAN. 17.—Athens Radio reports sinking of two Italian liners packed with troops—*Liguria* (15,000 tons) and *Lombardia* (20,000 tons).

1941 JAN. 28.—Several Fascist leaders go to the battle front. Count Ciano, the Duce's son-in-law and Foreign Minister, is leading a bomber squadron. Signor Bottai, Minister of National Education,

and Signor Gorla, Minister of Public Works, have "assumed command of detachments of the Alpini in the zone of operations". Signor Farinacci, former Secretary of the Fascist Party, and Signor Ricci, Minister of Corporations, have joined them in Albania.

1941 JAN. 29.—General John Metaxas dies. M. Alexander Korizis succeeds him as national leader.

Greek submarine *Papanikolis* sinks another Italian vessel (10,000 tons) off Brindisi.

Cotton goods worth five lakhs of rupees to be sent to Greece from Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

1941 FEB. 12.—Within thirty days of taking over Albanian campaign General Cavallero has launched no less than fifty counter attacks without achieving a single objective of any importance.

1941 MAR. 2.—German troops advance through Bulgaria to Greek frontier. After their completely successful visit to Ankara, Mr. Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, and Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, fly to Athens for talks with King George of the Hellenes, M. Korizis, General Papagos and the British Ministers to Athens and Belgrade.

Earthquake in Larissa renders 12,000 Greek families homeless. Royal Air Force sends bombers loaded with medical supplies. Mussolini sends bombers loaded with bombs to cause greater confusion and disaster while rescue operations are in progress.

1941 MAR. 7.—Mussolini himself goes to Albania and throws 120,000 men into a suicidal assault on Greek positions in the Central sector—2,000 are killed, 8,000 wounded or captured; and the Duce returns to Rome (Mar. 15) with an even heavier heart.

1941 MAR. 15.—President Roosevelt :—
"The British and their Grecian allies need ships, planes and food. From America they will get ships, planes and food. They need tanks, guns, ammunition and supplies of all kinds. From America they will get them."

1941 MAR. 24.—German plans for bullying Yugoslavia into making concessions to the Axis reach a climax with the visit of Yugoslav Ministers to Vienna, but Ribbentrop has to drop military clauses before Yugoslavs line up (25th).

Turkey and Russia issue joint declaration that each will remain neutral in the event of the other being involved in war with a third country.

1941 MAR. 25.—Mr. Winston Churchill, in a message to the Greek people on Greek Independence Day, paid a tribute to the valour that the Greeks have displayed in the sacred cause of freedom and said : "We are resolved to sustain it".

1941 MAR. 26.—Mr. Eden reaffirmed British aid to Greece till the final victory in a message at a meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League in London to celebrate Greek Independence Day.

1941 MAR. 31.—German Government has given an ultimatum to the Yugoslav Government demanding that the Yugoslav Army should be demobilised.

1941 APR. 1.—The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, was received by King George of Greece.

1941 APR. 3.—Belgrade has been declared an open town. Germans in the capital receive instructions from Berlin to leave immediately.

1941 APR. 6.—Synchronising with the issue of a proclamation that Germany is at war with the Belgrade Government. German troops invade Greece, crossing the frontier at two points, and meet with stout resistance in the Struma valley. The Greeks, in a successful counter-attack entered Bulgarian territory at one point.

1941 APR. 7.—It was officially announced that British, Australian and New Zealand troops had landed in Greece and that the Royal Air Force in Greece had been strongly reinforced. General Wavell is to be the Allies Supreme Commander in the Balkans.

1941 APR. 9.—The Germans entered Salonika. It was revealed that the British troops in Greece had not yet made contact with the enemy.

1941 APR. 11.—Greek forces withdrew in tact from Salonika. The Royal Air Force rendered magnificent help to the Greeks and inflicted very heavy damage on the Germans.

1941 APR. 18.—The Greek and British Imperial troops withdrew to a shorter line of defence in the face of increasing and reckless pressure by the German forces.

The Greek Prime Minister, M. Korizis, took his own life, unable to bear the strain of his immense responsibility.

1941 APR. 19.—The Allies evacuated Mount Olympus. The Royal Air Force played havoc with enemy troop concentrations.

King George of Greece formed a new Cabinet under his direction.

1941 APR. 21.—The Imperial forces evacuated Larissa and Trikkla in the course of their systematic withdrawal but the Germans failed to break through the Allied line at any point.

M. Emmanuel Tsouderos was appointed Premier of Greece and took the Oath of Allegiance. He said " We shall carry on our country's fight to a victorious finish."

1941 APR. 22.—Empire forces occupied defensive positions south of Lamia, 50 miles south of Larissa. The Germans occupied Yanina in the Pindus sector and also the islands of Lemnos and Samothrace off the Turkish coast.

The Greek armies of Epirus and Macedonia have laid down their arms. The capitulation was made by a Greek military delegation to the Commander of the Eleventh Italian Army on the Epirus front.

1941 APR. 23.—King George of Greece announced transfer of the Greek Government from Athens to Crete from where the fight will be continued.

British forces are engaged against German troops at the historic Pass of Thermopylae.

RUSSIA

(*Continued from Page* 12)

this state of things continues. Further, a good deal of discussion has taken place in regard to grain prices and freight rates. This may indicate mere hard bargaining. It may also imply the Russian desire to use economic pressure as a means of countering German diplomacy. Russia undoubtedly agrees with Great Britain and Turkey that, in the interests of peace in the Balkans, Germany should be kept out of South-Eastern Europe. But German intimidation of Russia has however had this result of preventing Russia from openly championing the cause of the Balkan countries, Germany has at the same time failed to induce Russia to undermine Turkish resistance and this should be uncomfortable to Hitler because once he starts a war in the Balkans and the German army is placed in a difficult position with long lines of communication through countries with many Pan-Slav sympathizers, he may well find Soviet Russia an unpleasant neighbour.

So far as Britain is concerned, it is perhaps safe to say that, though Russia may agree with Britain that peace in the Balkans depends upon keeping out Germany, she has yet no desire to become more friendly towards Britain and no desire for closer co-operation with her. Communist propaganda was very busy in Great Britain, necessitating the British Government suppressing *The Daily Worker* and *The Week*. Further, the People's Convention held in London in January last was fully commented upon in the Russian Radio. These facts show that Russian policy towards Great Britain has not altered very much for the better. The fact is, Stalin is afraid of Germany, but hates democracy, and so long as Germany remains strong enough to intimidate him, it is very unlikely that Stalin will change his policy of non-co-operation with Britain.

To sum up, there is a good deal to support the view that relations between Germany and Russia are not over-cordial. The Kremlin has given cynical support to Germany because it has been profitable and has extorted a high price—half Poland, the Baltic States, a dominating position in the Baltic and Dobruja in the south—in return for oil and other supplies. The support of Germany has, however, now ceased to be either profitable or expedient. Conditions are now different and Germany has been compelled to move in directions which cut right across the Russian path. Russia's open manifestation of regret at the German drive in south-east Europe shows that her pacts are the direct results of this growing tension. In spite of her evident anxiety to keep aloof, Russia is being forced into a dilemma; if she accepts German penetration into the Ukraine, she runs a great risk. On the other hand, rapprochement with Britain would mean an open breach with Germany and the opening up of the claims of the Baltic peoples to rule themselves and of the Poles for the restitution of their lands when the Allied victory is gained. In these circumstances, Russia is not at all likely to precipitate a crisis. In fact, she would strive her best to avoid it. Germany's oil supplies, it is said, are running out. Would she endeavour then to take hold of the Baku oilfields and the Ukranian granary? There is nothing that Hitler in urgent need will not do, but an open clash with Russia is not evidently an object about which he is very particular just at present, when his attention is concentrated on winning the Battles of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Bombs on Berlin

Britain's newest warplanes have lately been attacking Germany with bombs larger and deadlier than any ever used before, and on the night of April 9 a good many of these fell on Berlin itself. For once, the Nazis' howl of rage was so spontaneous that they forgot to make the usual pretence that no damage was done; for once, there were no "attic fires" or "bombs on open country" in the bellow that went up from Berlin on the morning after that memorable plastering. Here is a passage from the Nazi radio's account of the raid:

> "Numbers of high-explosive and incendiary bombs were dropped on the capital of the Reich. The results of this attack provide a further example of the inhuman methods of the Royal Air Force. Everything of German culture and artistic light was bombed indiscriminately. The venerable State Opera House in *Unter den Linden*, the State Library, museums and many other historic buildings were damaged. One hospital received a direct hit which destroyed its research department and several laboratories. . . . Direct hits on dwellings caused casualties to the civilian population."

This shriek of outraged virtue comes from people who machine-gunned terrified women and children on the roads of Poland, Belgium, Holland and France, just as they are machine-gunning them in the Balkans today; who last summer laid waste the greater part of the fair city of Rotterdam, murdering between 30,000 and 40,000 civilians in a couple of hours; who have attacked every sort of dwelling in Britain, from Buckingham Palace to workmen's cottages in Wales, besides innumerable churches (more than 2,000 were listed by the Vatican radio the other day), schools, hospitals and ancient buildings infinitely lovelier and more "venerable" than anything the gloomy capital of Hitler's ape-State could boast.

What the Neutrals Said

Naturally, Goebbels' hirelings said nothing about the burning out of one of the main Berlin railway stations, nor did they mention that all the capital's fire-brigades were still struggling at noon next day to cope with the terrific destruction wrought in the Wilhelmstrasse and the surrounding area—an area crammed full of grandiose Government offices devoted to the spread of German culture and artistic light throughout Europe and (when Europe shall have been enslaved) the rest of the world. Perhaps Goebbels himself was too dazed by the events of the previous night to prevent neutral journalists in Berlin from passing these details on to their readers outside Germany.

He had recovered sufficiently, however, to end his *communiqué* with his characteristic signature-lie, to the effect that "the total losses suffered by the Royal Air Force in the raid last night and during the day yesterday has reached the final figure of 30 planes." In actual fact, the Berlin raid cost the Royal Air Force seven bombers, while one fighter was lost earlier in the day—a total slightly above one-quarter of the German claim.

The "Fortress" of Belgrade

The Nazis' lamentations over the bombing of Berlin are all the more hypocritical when read side by side with their gloatings, repeated day and night throughout the past week, over the destruction of the greater part of Belgrade. Their excuse for this latest piece of barbarity is that Belgrade was a fortress presenting a number of military targets.

The whole world knows, however, that the Yugoslav Government, some days before the Nazi invasion, had declared their capital an open town, its position on the frontier rendering it indefensible from a military point of view. Belgrade does indeed possess a "fortress"—a picturesque relic of former days, which has as much relation to the needs of modern warfare as, for instance, the Purana Qila at Delhi. Was it this ancient monument that Goering's knights of the air were aiming at, when they turned Belgrade into a smoking shambles, its streets littered with the corpses of children, women and old men?

A significant side-light on the whole barbaric business has recently been furnished by several Nazi airmen since captured by the Yugoslavs. Even before Germany "declared war" on Yugoslavia, these ruffians confessed, they had taken off from aerodromes near Vienna with orders to bomb the Royal Palace in the centre of Belgrade. Thus the young King Peter is the latest recruit to that company of European Sovereigns—a company which already includes Their Majesties the King-Emperor and Queen-Empress, together with the Queen of the Netherlands and the King of Norway—who have been personally and deliberately attacked by Hitler's would-be assassins.

Revenge at last—Facist fashion

So long as the Italians were alone in facing the Greek Army, they received so severe a trouncing that they dared not cast any doubts on the courage or fighting qualities of their heroic opponents. Now that the Nazi hordes are at last marching to the rescue of the Fascist legions, however, Rome begins to feel brave enough to deride the Greeks.

Thus, besides being responsible for the fantastic story of New Zealanders firing on the Greeks to prevent their running away—a story quoted by the Nazi radio, and referred to in the second half of this Report—the Italian wireless announced on April 12 that the Greek

Macedonian Army, numbering some 80,000 men, had surrendered unconditionally to the German forces.

At the time of going to press, the Greek Macedonian Army is still resisting heroically, despite the fact that the German drive to Salonika had cut them off from the rest of their comrades in the west.

M. Filov Crosses his Fingers

Berlin on April 10 quoted M. Filov, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, as complaining that, whereas Bulgaria was not taking part in military operations, the wicked Yugoslav air force was bombing the sacred soil of Bulgaria.

Evidently M. Filov's recent association with Messrs. Hitler and Ribbentrop has impaired that passion for truthfulness which the world has a right to expect from a Bulgarian statesman. By conniving at the occupation of their country by the Germans, and later on by permitting that country to be used as a jumping-off ground for the Nazi attack on Yugoslavia, the Bulgarians assumed the role of aggressors, and mustn't complain if they get hurt in consequence. Moreover, Bulgarian troops have recently crossed the border into Yugoslavia, and it is now apparent that they were all along intended to be used in co-operation with the German forces.

When Duke and Duce Differ

The Italian *communiqué*, on the evacuation of Addis Ababa, quoted by the German wireless on April 8, says that "owing to the protection of the Italian police force," the civilian population of the town had not suffered any damage.

Naturally, Mussolini—who always writes the Italian *communiqués* himself, though he very seldom takes part in any of the operations chronicled therein—must be less well-informed on the subject of Abyssinia than the Italian Viceroy on the spot, the Duke of Aosta. In a special message which the retreating Duke sent to the British forces about to enter the capital, His Royal Highness expressed appreciation of "the initiative taken by Generals Wavell and Cunningham regarding the protection of the women and children in Addis Ababa." The British action, added the Duke, demonstrated "the strong bonds of humanity and race still existing between the two nations."

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Nazis Spread the Conflagration

The Berlin news bulletin in Hindustani alleged (April 10) that British and American propaganda had dragged Yugoslavia and Greece into war. As Germany made the first move and invaded Yugoslavia, there is no doubt as to where the guilt lies. The Yugoslavs had even endangered their own safety by their policy of meticulous neutrality and careful avoidance of any action which might be construed as provocative by the Nazis.

As for the Greeks, on the very first occasion that Mr. Eden was received by King George of the Hellenes and M. Korizis, the latter declared spontaneously that his country was resolved at all costs to defend her freedom and native soil against any aggressor and that, even if they were left wholly unsupported by Great Britain, Yugoslavia and Turkey, the Greeks would fight to the death against Italy and Germany.

More Lies

Although Germany's published excuse for her inexcusable assault on Greece was the landing of British troops on Greek soil, the Nazis dragged out (Hindustani, April 11) the old lie about Britain "deserting her allies." In this instance Dr. Goebbels has made himself ridiculous, for both the Greeks and the Yugoslavs remember well how Britain fought shoulder to shoulder with them against the same barbarous enemy in the Great War.

Before their troops had even contacted the British Imperial forces in the Balkans, German announcers were broadcasting mythical stories of New Zealanders firing on the Greeks from behind and in Hindustani, on April 11, they accused the British of blowing up a bridge, thereby forcing the Greeks to lay down their arms.

The Germans are well aware of the untruthfulness of these reports; their object in circulating them is to provoke denials which might reveal the exact whereabouts of the Imperial troops.

The Nazi 'God'

On April 7 a German, broadcasting in Hindustani, made this remarkable statement:—

> "It is noteworthy that the Germans were engaged in the worship of God at the time when war was declared on them by Britain."

The Anglo-French declaration of war (on Sunday, Sep. 3, 1939) was made at the very moment when German armies were marching through Poland, bombing defenceless families from their homes and machine-gunning them as they fled along the country roads. Was this being "engaged in the worship of God"?

Keren Casualties

Quoting an article published in the *Giornale d'Italia*, Berlin (Hindustani, April 11) claimed that at least 15,000 Indian soldiers had been killed in the battle for Keren.

The total casualties suffered by all the Imperial forces in this action were 4,000, which figure includes wounded as well as killed.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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